

REMARKS

This paper is in response to the Office Action of November 2, 2005. The due date for response extends to February 2, 2006. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of these amendments and remarks.

A telephone conference with the Examiner was had on January 24, 2006. The discussion was with regard to the clarity of the claims and distinctions between the claimed invention and the cited art. Specifically, a discussion was had regarding the cited art of Russo, Garfinkle and Custer. The undersigned again emphasized that the collective teachings of the cited art failed to teach or suggest the claimed invention. Additionally, the remarks previously made in the Appeal brief are herein incorporated by reference.

After discussing the teachings of the cited art with the Examiner, it was agreed that certain dependent claims would be allowed, if incorporated into the independent claims. See Examiner Interview Summary, dated January 24, 2006.

Although the Applicant believes the claims to be patentable in their un-amended form, the Applicant has made the amendments noted by the Examiner to place the case in condition for allowance. As agreed, the Applicant incorporated the subject matter of claims 5 and 4 into claim 1. The subject matter of claim 10 was incorporated into claim 9. Claim 17 was amended to include similar features of claims 4 and 5. Claim 20 was amended to include similar features of claim 10.

For the record, the Applicant wishes to emphasize that these claim amendments in no way concede or limit the scope and breath of other embodiments disclosed in the originally as-filed application. Therefore, the Applicant hereby reserves the right to file follow-on continuation applications to capture other features believed to be patentable over the cited art of record, if desired.

A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested for this case.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present amendment, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 749-6903. If any other fees are due in connection with filing this amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. SONYP002). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
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